

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Freed from Front!

Hackney is at last free of the National Front - at least as far as the headquarters of the political party. The warehouse in Great Eastern Street, Shoreditch, which was bought by "NF Properties Ltd" in 1977 for £64,000 was vacated early in December by the Front. It appears that they left in characteristically brutal fashion, smashing the place up as they went, as the culmination of many months inter-party bickering reached a climax in a high court case.

The rump of the NF who still occupied the so-called "Excalibur House" were the Richard Verrall/Martin Webster/Derrick Day group. This attractive trio have always controlled the street level activities of the Front but have never been able to get their hands on the real money and assets, like Excalibur House. They are bitter, however, because individual NF members put a lot of money into the NF HQ, but were not given any voting power by the NF Properties Ltd company, which is run by rich "respectable businessmen" like Paul Kavanagh. It is people like Kavanagh that Day and his gang of thugs dislike, people who have refused to let the NF itself control its own headquarters.

There have also been other splits in the Front. John Tyndall, once the NF election candidate in Hackney South, leads the New National Front from Brighton. There are also other groups like the British People's Party and the Constitutional Movement.

The NF "proper" is now thought to be operating from an address in Streatham, where they will probably get a great non-welcome from Lambeth Borough Council. They have left behind a distinct bad taste in the south of Hackney, as well as a substantial bill for rates arrears, which the Council will have a long battle to get back.

We regret that this issue of HPP is only six pages. This has been caused by production difficulties caused by us rushing to get the paper out over the holiday period.

HPP would like to wish all its readers and friends a Happy New Year. We will be back to a full-length issue in February.

NURSERY FACES THE AXE

END OF THE RAINBOW



Parents and children from the Rainbow Nursery protest on the Town Hall steps about the possible closure of the nursery.

Rainbow Nursery in Clissold Road is being threatened with closure. The GLC is planning to build a lorry park on Clissold Road and the school building is among the houses on the site scheduled for demolition. So far the GLC has failed to come up with alternative accommodation for the nursery school.

The lease for the building was held by the Peter Bedford Housing Association. It expired in September and the PBHA, having received "strong indication" that the block 33-39 Clissold Road was to be demolished, decided not to renew the lease. Rainbow Nursery received notice to quit by the end of December. An appeal by the nursery's organising committee to the GLC produced an extension to the end of February. If no

alternative accommodation is found by then the nursery will have to close.

Rainbow is a multi-racial community nursery, catering for children between the ages of two and five - with priority to those whose mothers have to go to work. It can cater for up to 24 children - there are 20 attending at the moment - and has a waiting list of 50. There are six members of staff and the nursery also takes students and placements from community schemes and courses, who would otherwise be unemployed.

A spokesperson from the GLC Housing Department denied all knowledge of the proposed demolition, declaring that they "knew of no threat to the nursery". Onia Salmon, one of the workers, said, however, that "the GLC said

that they would look into the possibility of rehousing us. But from September to now they haven't come forward with anything". And even if they do find alternative housing, their problems won't necessarily be solved. "We are losing out both ways", Ms. Salmon said. "Even if we do find somewhere they won't promise us the money to convert it".

IDEAL

Rainbow Nursery wants to stay where it is. It is an ideal site for the nursery, being close to a swimming pool and to Clissold Park with its open play space and menagerie.

One encouraging sign is

that the nursery's application for a Social Services grant is going through. Also a deputation from the Social Services Committee has been looking into the case and, according to Ms. Salmon, "it looks as though they are in our favour". The question was raised at the last meeting of Hackney Council and the SSC deputation has asked the GLC to defer demolition of the nursery.

Rainbow is pinning its hopes on the deputation's support. Meanwhile parents and workers are looking for temporary accommodation, even though this may mean the GLC will give up all responsibility for the nursery. Rainbow is determined not to close down.



The full impact of Tory Environment Minister Michael Heseltine's recent statement about local authority rates is still being assessed as this issue of HPP went to press. Even

Big cut certain in 1981

acknowledged experts on local government finance have found the detailed mathematics involved very difficult to understand.

However, several things are already clear. First, it should be understood that Hackney has now been penalised by the maximum amount for three years running. This is part of a massive attack on poor inner-city working-class boroughs like Hackney.

Secondly, the new Local Government A&T means that

councils can no longer make up the money that is no longer forthcoming from central government, by way of the old Rate Support Grant, without getting penalised by the Government. Hackney would have been able, under the old system, of making up the deficit in its funding by raising the rates. To a certain extent, this is what it has done over the last two years, and it has avoided making massive cuts in services in this way. It will not be possible

to do this in April this year. There will have to be cuts in services and redundancies.

It has also become clear that there will be intense opposition in the local Labour Party to these proposals. There will be many calls for the Council to do the only honourable thing over this issue, which is to resign, and stand for re-election on a no-cuts platform. Now is surely the time for a fighting position like that to be taken.

38 Questions for Home Office

The persistent efforts of a few friends of Matthew O'Hara, a Hackney diabetic who died at home in June after spending a week in Pentonville prison, are beginning to attract concern well beyond the borough boundaries.

Stanley Clinton Davis, who was Matthew O'Hara's MP, has written to the Home Office with a detailed 38-point list of questions, in an effort to find out precisely what happened to Matthew, who told friends that he was assaulted in Pentonville, and that his vital insulin had been refused. The case has also received national press coverage - unusual for something that happened over six months ago.

Regular readers of HPP will recall that we have printed a number of articles describing the background to the case (see, particularly, the September and November issues).

Matthew O'Hara was a member of the Hackney branch of the Workers' Educational Association, which held a recent public meeting on the subject of the Prison Medical Service and Home Office secrecy to discuss the case.

Ironically, another active member of Hackney WEA was Blair Peach, and the branch secretary, Ken Worpole, recalled when opening the meeting that his last conversation with Matthew had been a discussion about the conduct of the inquest into Blair's death.

Hampered

Common to both cases was that attempts to reach the truth were hampered by the authorities' possession of the most important documents and their refusal to disclose them. The Home Office made enormous advantage of time and prevarication, taking sometimes months to reply to letters and evading or refusing to answer the relevant questions. Having no emotional involvement, they could afford to sit it out and hope that public interest would fade away.

Friends of Matthew and Blair were deeply hurt by a smear that such deaths were cynically manipulated for



political ends. This was insensitive, callous nonsense. Ken said: "We only wish our friends were still alive... but as they are dead we will not rest until we have wrung out the truth about why they died, and done all we can to save the lives of those who might otherwise die in similar circumstances."

He introduced six speakers: Geoff Coggan from the prisoners' union, PROP; Chris Wallis from Radical Alternatives to Prison; Edward Fitzgerald, a lawyer representing the mental health organisation, MIND; Charles Foster from the National Council for Civil Liberties, and two friends of Matthew O'Hara.

Hackney musician Alistair Brinkley, one of the friends, spoke movingly about his weekly meetings with Matthew for conversation and guitar practice. He told of Matthew's strength of character and personality. He was an individual in dress, speech and character, who resisted with humour social pressures towards mediocrity.

Matthew, a diabetic, had had a long-standing battle with Hackney Council over his rates, which led to his imprisonment for contempt of court on 12 March this year. When he went to Pentonville, he was his usual "hale and hearty" self, but four days later he was in the Royal Northern Hospital, coughing blood, and in a

severe state of ketosis, the comatose condition a diabetic enters if he does not receive insulin. He accredited his stomach injury to an assault by prison warders. About two months later he died.

The Home Office deny the assault, but admit that Matthew received no treatment in Pentonville for his diabetes. They claim, however, that he was mentally unbalanced and "concealed" from the prison his need for insulin. The prison's routine urine tests are, apparently, taken so soon after admission that they are ineffective in the diagnosis of this condition. No explanation has been given of documentary medical evidence suggesting that Matthew was seriously ill in a cell for two days without medical attention. His family doctor, after a detailed study of this evidence, stated that: "On the facts as given to me, I would find it difficult to believe he was not neglected, even working on the charitable assumption that he successfully concealed the fact that he was diabetic from all the medical authorities that he came into contact with."

Typical

Geoff Coggan from PROP claimed that Matthew's treatment was typical of the medical standards in prisons generally. He recounted his own experience as a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs when a

cellmate attempted suicide by slitting his wrists. An emergency bell is provided to be rung on such occasions but he had to ring for a whole hour before anyone came.

Enquiry

A two-year enquiry by RAP, MIND, PROP, NCCL and other concerned bodies suggests that the prison medical service is more concerned with control than treatment. Large quantities of psychiatric drugs are used, they claim, to keep the prisoners quiet. Mr Coggan spoke of "double standards" in the press reporting of Soviet dissidents being sedated with major tranquillisers, but keeping quiet about the use of the identical drugs on British dissidents. Prison doctors, he argued, were responsible for much of the misery in our prisons, not so much because they caused it, but because they failed to speak out against what they were required to do or the conditions they witnessed.

Challenged to justify calling prisoners "dissidents", he outlined the case of Abenna Simba Tola, a black Rastafarian girl in Holloway prison, who, he asserted, had been treated as a madwoman for insisting on her religious conviction that her head and knees should be covered at all times. At one stage, she said she had been physically stripped in front of

male officers and injected with Depixol, a long acting psychiatric drug for which she had no medical need. Another Rastafarian prisoner, Richard "Cartoon" Campbell, died in Ashford Remand Centre last March. His religious convictions were also treated as symptoms of mental disorder whilst his physical health was neglected.

Charles Foster outlined an alarming increase in prison deaths revealed by the NCCL in an analysis of Home Office statistics. Seventy-three people had died in prison in 1979 - more than any other year in the last 10. The average age of prison deaths had fallen from 49 in 1977 to 43 in 1979, whereas in the community the average age of death was 70 or over. Four London prisons (Brixton, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville) were amongst the five English prisons with the highest number of recorded deaths.

Support

The Friends of Matthew O'Hara Committee would appreciate letters of support to Stanley Clinton Davis in his efforts to get the Home Office to answer his questions. Anyone who would like to get further involved should get in touch with the Committee at 177 Glenarm Road, E5 (986 5251).

WORK-IN OVER XMAS

More than 60 members of the National Union of Journalists are now involved in a bitter struggle to save jobs in the publishing subsidiaries of BPC (formerly the British Printing Corporation).

The struggle is centred on two Hackney offices of BPC companies - Macdonald Futura in Shepherdess Walk and Macdonald Phoebus and Caxton Publications in Worship St, EC2.

The union members all belong to a grant or federated chapel (office branch) made up of members from all BPC's publishing subsidiaries.

Trouble began in the summer when the management of Macdonald Futura succeeded, against union opposition, in making six redundancies at Macdonald Futura, a paperback and general publisher. Less than four months later a second round of redundancies was announced in the same form. In both cases, the burden fell mainly on union members - especially chapel officers and long serving members of staff. And in both cases, the overall workload to be borne by editorial staff was to remain the same. The redundancies were not the result of a diminishing amount of work -

just a short term way of apparently saving money.

In this second round, a close examination of the figures and publishing plans convinced union members that money could be saved and redundancies avoided if proposed casual work was retained for staff jobs. Management appeared to agree with the figures, but insisted on its right to manage, and broke off talks announcing the names of its proposed redundees.

After two weeks of intermittent industrial action (in the form of disruptive meetings), management went on the offensive and said that unless union members agreed to redundancies and worked normally they would all be sacked. Management had, by then, agreed to retain two out of ten proposed redundancies, but the chapel had decided that this was not enough to carry the proposed workload.

The sackings happened on 21 November, but were followed by two weeks of all but normal working, when union members were free to turn up at their desks and to send material to printers.

All this came to a halt on December 8 when NUJ members

turned up for work to be greeted by security guards at the doors whose instructions were to keep them out.

But a part of the Macdonald Phoebus office had been left ungarded and unlocked. This was on the sixth floor of Holywell House (Macdonald Phoebus have their main offices on the fourth floor). The chapel held a meeting in this area and immediately decided on an occupation. Their decision was quickly given official backing from the union, and a hardship fund was started.

Morale is high and the occupation has entered its third week. As we go to press, talks had just been re-opened at management's request, but the chapel were prepared to extend their occupation over Christmas.

Feelings are running high at being locked out. NUJ members feel keenly the illogicality of trying to make redundancies while there is work to be done of preventing skilled workers from working and paying - it is rumoured - about £2,000 a week to security guards to stop people entering their offices.

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South Africa and Namibia



Ilva Mackay is from South Africa and has been involved in the struggle there for many years. She was imprisoned for six months following the Soweto uprisings in 1976. She now works for SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions) in London, and has just moved into Hackney. She spoke to HPP about SACTU and what British workers could do to show solidarity with their brothers and sisters in South Africa and Namibia.

HPP: Could you tell us about the formation of the South African Congress of Trade Unions?

IM: SACTU was formed in 1955 and was the first non-racial trade union co-ordinating body promoting the common class interests of all workers, regardless of race. SACTU has always stressed that the workers' struggle cannot be divorced from the national liberation struggle because in South Africa, black workers are not only exploited as workers, but oppressed as a nation.

The Apartheid regime responded viciously - they banned and jailed SACTU activists, and leaders like Mini, Khayinga Ngudle, Mayekiso and others have been killed in the racist police cells. SACTU has never been officially banned inside South Africa, but because of the continued banning and arrests of its organisers, SACTU was forced underground and this is how it operates inside the country today.

HPP: What is presently happening inside South Africa, and what are the black workers doing inside the country today?

IM: During this year, we have witnessed an upsurge of militant struggle by the black workers in SA to achieve full trade union and political rights. There is not one industrial sector or region in our country that has not experienced strike action over the last 18 months. The so-called "reforms" in the labour policy which the regime and the multi-national corporations are boasting of are a mani-

festation of their fear of the determined action by the workers. This is only the regime's way of trying to control and contain the workers' struggle. The most important feature of the strikes is the unity between the workers and the community and the use of the boycott weapon against the companies.

HPP: Why is the struggle of the South African workers important for the British worker?

IM: British complicity in apartheid makes it essential that British workers understand the plight of the South African workers. You are working for the same British corporations that exploit black workers in South Africa under the profitable conditions of apartheid. British companies have no qualms about closing down their factories or plants here, causing massive unemployment. They then open up factories in South Africa or invest there, where labour is cheap and where, with the help of both state and police, the workers can be kept "under control". There-



fore your struggle in this country to defend your hard-won gains is linked to the struggle of the South African workers for their basic democratic rights.

HPP: What can workers do in this country to support your struggle?

IM: Over and over the black workers in South Africa have called for sanctions against the regime, and the ending of economic links. The British labour movement can help by exposing the way in which Britain bolsters the apartheid regime, and by working towards the ending of this collaboration, and by demanding the release of all trade union leaders and activists who are being detained.



For information about specific campaigns within the labour movement, contact the Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, W1, tel: 580 5311).

Ilva Mackay will be addressing a meeting on South Africa and Namibia at the Trades Hall on 24 January (see advertisement on this page), organised by the Hackney Anti-Apartheid Group.

HOUSING DEPT BACKS DOWN

Hackney Council has backed down and promised to offer June Deegan and her two children another flat.

Ms. Deegan and her twin seven week old babies were evicted from bed and breakfast accommodation in the Central Park Hotel in Wilberforce Road on 12th December. She had refused to accept an offer of a council flat in the unimproved part of Wigan House Estate in Lower Clapton. The flat was on the fourth (top) floor and the lift was too small to take her baby buggy for the twins.

no reason

Officials in the Housing Department said this was insufficient reason for refusing the flat and informed the owner of the Central Park Hotel that the council would no longer pay for Ms. Deegan and her children. They said that she could leave the buggy in a pram shed on Wigan Estate, or fold it up and take it up in the lift. Evidently they had not attempted themselves to fold up a baby buggy while carrying two small children. The suggestion that she leave the buggy in a pram shed was equally fatuous. All the pram sheds on Wigan Estate are boarded up and residents often have to

leave prams chained to the railings. Ms. Deegan also felt that she would have "been like a prisoner" in the flat.

Luckily Hackney Under Fives Group and the Lea View Tenants Association heard about Ms. Deegan's situation and offered help. On the suggestion of the Tenants Association Committee she and the twins moved into a bed-sit on the Lea View estate. Her only alternative would have been to put the twins into care - which would have cost the council £160 a week.

A spokesman from the Lea View Tenants Association said that their helping Ms. Deegan "was like the trade unions campaigning for the unemployed. Tenants Associations get things done for their own tenants but they don't usually help homeless people".

injustice

This incident is yet another example of the injustice of the government's housing policies. Homeless families should be given at least three choices of accommodation. At the moment the Housing Departments offer only one. Once this has been refused "on insufficient grounds", they shirk all responsibility for the families.

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FILM and PUBLIC MEETING

on the struggle of South African and Namibian workers and on what can be done in Hackney to support them.

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 1981
LABOUR & TRADES HALL, 96 DALSTON LANE, E8. 2.30-5.00pm

- Film - "We Are All Workers" - made by the South African Congress of Trade Unions and shot illegally in South Africa.
- Ernie Roberts M.P. plus speakers from SACTU and SWAPO.
- Questions/discussion



followed by

Benefit Afro Disco

Same place 8.00pm Bar Food £1.00 (proceeds to SACTU)

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Marxism Today

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YOU TOO CAN BE A SURVIVOR

"Did you know that thousands of Japanese survived all the effects of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs?" " . . . that the Soviet Union and China operate a civil defence system which teaches the masses to expect war at any time?"

That "nothing can save you from a direct hit - but . . . A new magazine called "Protect and Survive Monthly and British Civil Defence News" has been launched, scheduled to reach the news-stands in January. Costing 65p an issue, or £7.80 for a year's subscription, the magazine has the backing of several government, scientific and military officials, including Leon Brittan (QC, MP), Minister of State, James Daghish of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and various Canadian, Swiss and Swedish defence authorities.

FUNDING

Funding is coming from manufacturers of civil defence equipment - shelters, clothing, food, etc. The copy in HPP's possession was specially re-printed for one such benefactor, whose products also feature in a full-length article.

In the words of the editor, Mr. C. Bruce Sibley, the magazine's message is: "Do not ignore the dark Gods of war - protect yourselves and your ideals WILL survive!" It is

yet another product of the government-encouraged attitude that nuclear war is inevitable. It follows the government's pathetic pamphlet, Protect & Survive, in trying to convince "the masses" (us) that survival of a nuclear holocaust is not only possible but an appealing idea as well.

FASCIST

The tone of the editorial is both fascist and anti-Soviet. "How many Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English people", demands Mr. Sibley, "would prefer to live under the heel of a regime which, having won its prize b. nuclear blackmail, would initiate a campaign of arrest and shootings for those opposed to them . . . thus erasing a culture and heritage which began with Neolithic man!" A two-page article describes the Soviet Union's comprehensive civil defence programme, with the underlying implication that they must be planning to attack us, and are sneakily preparing for the event. The article quotes Prof. John Erikson, "the distinguished authority on Soviet Military affairs", who summarised the Kremlin's nuclear war strategy as "He Who Fires the Last Round Wins". It elaborates on this quote: "He Who Survives to Fire the Last Round - Wins".

Other articles include Part

One of a series on DIY shelters, to be built not under the kitchen table, but in your basement. One hopes we all live long enough to complete the series.

Its tailpiece is a short story about Life after the Holocaust, typified by mud and archaic druidic religious rites.

Inspiration, advice and encouragement for the magazine has come from the US Journal of Civil Defence. It is obviously in the best interests of that nation to placate and reassure the inhabitants of its intended nuclear war playground.

BUYER'S GUIDE

No fewer than 17 manufacturers of civil defence equipment have been found to support this first edition - and more will no doubt be attracted by a monthly "Buyers Guide", which will discuss individual products in depth. P&S does, however, disclaim "responsibility for products or services which . . . fail to meet the approval of the purchaser". And runs an article criticising one shelter system, just to prove its editorial integrity.

It is an ominous sign that, as magazines fold and collapse from lack of funds and support, enough money can still be found to launch a new journal on this subject.

christmas freeze on L.T. fares

This month saw Sir Peter Masefield, chairperson of the London Transport Executive, announce a bus and tube fare freeze until the middle of next year. "We shall do our very best to hold fares down to present levels and certainly there will be no increase before mid-1981", he said.

Welcome though this announcement is, particularly to the large numbers of low income and unemployed people, the reasoning behind the decision may well prove faulty; at the ratepayers' expense.

6% WAGE RISE

London Transport based its plans for a six month freeze on the assumption, very likely false, that its staff will accept a 6% wage rise. Already London Transport workers are among the lowest paid in London, and a six per cent. wage rise does not cover inflation. Calculations on inflation made by the LT offices estimate it will be 11% - a five per cent. shortfall.

The assumptions of an 11% inflation rate and a 6% wage increase have led to the LT Executive telling the GLC that it expects a £17.2m. deficit (last year it ended with a deficit of £31.4m.).

Why does the LT Executive want to base its planning targets on such unrealistic levels of inflation and wage rates?

PRESSURE

Part of the answer may lie in the pressure being put on the executive to lessen its impact on inflation through fare rises. Fares rose 13½% in September and by 19% last March. Undoubtedly another series of fare increases will add to the Tories' index-linked inflation barometer.

On the other hand another round of fare increases will add to the problems faced by the Tory-controlled GLC in next year's elections. It is politically expedient to halve fares in the short term while planning further increases in the second half of next year. Secondly the Tory GLC may well be anticipating the expected loss of control widely predicted, and so by holding fares down in the interim push the burden of fare increases onto the newly-elected Labour GLC officials.

It is expected that the LT question will become an important issue in the elections. Already the first cannon shot has been fired.

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REVIEWS



Photo: Mike Gray

Chats panto

Chats Palace annual panto this year is Robbin the Rich, a free adaptation of the legend of Robin Hood. Chats has been transformed into a beautifully constructed wooden glade - constructed literally from acres and acres of hardboard. There's plenty of fun for everybody, especially children, and lots of audience participation, so if you're the shy retiring type who doesn't want to get in on the action don't go along. It's also nice to see non-stereotyped role-playing with, for instance, Maid Marian taking on the wicked Sir Guy in the Errol Flynn style sword fight at the end. Right on! Go and see it, if you can get in. It'll be packed right to the end of the run - not least by all the relatives and friends of the cast and stage crew, which runs into hundreds.

HITZ!

What more can you say about a band who have had two Top 20 hits, as well as one in the Top 40? That's very good for any band, and I will say now that in three months the Lambrettas have cracked it wide open. With their sound like Poison Ivy, Watch Out I'm Back, Beat Boys In The Jet Age, they are good to dance to, jump to or hear on the radio.

A good album to buy. Five stars. Excellent!

Steve King

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JANUARY 1981

Weekly Programme

Mon 5 - Wed 7 Matinee	SPIDERMAN STRIKES BACK (U) plus SINBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER (U) Programme starts 1.15 pm.
Mon 5 for 6 days	THE TIN DRUM (X) Perfs: 5.15 & 8.00 pm (Extra show on Sat. at 2.30 pm.)
Mon 12 for 3 days	SPELLBOUND & PARADINE CASE
Thu 15 for 3 days	REBECCA (A) & NOTORIOUS (A)
Mon 19 for 6 days	PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK (A) plus LAST WAVE (AA)
Mon 26 for 6 days	BREAKER MORANT (A) (& another feature)
Mon 2 Feb for 2 wks.	BABYLON (X) & PRESSURE (AA)

Sunday Matinees

January 4th	INTERIORS & PERSONA
January 11th	THEMROC & BOF
January 18th	RENDEVOUS D'ANNA (X) plus shorts
February 1st	CASABLANCA & THE BIG SLEEP

Friday & Saturday Lates at 11.15 pm

Friday 2nd	ERASERHEAD & THE CRAZIES
Saturday 3rd	CHINATOWN & PARALLAX VIEW
Friday 9th	WESTWORLD & SOYLENT GREEN
Saturday 10th	THEMROC & BOF
Saturday 31st	CASABLANCA & THE BIG SLEEP

For times of weekly programmes and details of other Late Night shows and Matinees, please phone the cinema.

WHATS ON

January 1981

THEATRE

HALF MOON THEATRE 27 Alie St.

*Thurs 8 - Sat 24 January:
The 7:84 Theatre Company
presents "one Big Blow", a
musical comedy about a coll-
iery brass band that takes
industrial action when its
trumpet player is forced to
retire with pneumoconiosis
on the eve of the big
annual competition. Follow-
ing a very successful nat-
ional tour, the play is
being brought back to the
(Old) Half Moon.

Perfs: 8pm, Tues-Sat.
Tickets: £2 plus 25p member-
ship. Reductions for the
elderly, claimants, students
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Book by phoning 253 4049.

The performance on Sat 10 Jan
is for the East End News and
tickets for that performance
are available from that
newspaper.

LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE

14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St., N1
CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 1980/81

*Daily till 11 Jan, and week-
ends 17-18, and 24-25 Jan:
'The Prince and the Mouse' plus
'Crystal Shadows'

A new production by the resi-
dent company, 'The Prince and
the Mouse' is a sophisticated
fairy story from the writings
of Oliver Goldsmith. The play
is sponsored by the Methodist
Church - Division of Education
and Youth, and the Arts Council.
Both this, and 'Crystal Shad-
ows' are suitable for children
of 6 years and over.
Perfs: 3pm.

*27, 30, 31 Dec and 2, 3 Jan:
Montserrat Tinto with the
Tinto Theatre D'Ombres pre-
sent a show for the very
young (3-5 yrs. old). They
are performing a short
version of the Hans Andersen
story, 'The Tin Soldier', and
'Train-Train' about a toy
train and a boy called Pip.
Perfs: 11 am.

Admission:
At 11 am-Adults £1.25,
Children £1.
At 3 pm-Adults £1.75,
Children £1.25

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD EAST

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15;
Box Office: 534 0310.

* Dec 1st till Jan 24th:
'Robin Hood'

Written and directed by Alan
Klein, 'Robin Hood' claims
to be a show for children of
all ages between 6 and 60.
There's also an impressive
line-up of characters eager
to take part in the tricks,
thrills and adventure of
Robin's struggle against his
arch enemies.

Toni Palmer, who appears
in the film version of 'The
French Lieutenant's Woman',
plays Robin. Sylveste McCoy
of 'Tis Was' fame is the Dame
and Bill Wallis of Radio 4's
'Week Ending' is Friar Tuck.
Ken Hill and Alan Klein both
worked on the Stratford's
recent production of 'The
Mummy's Tomb', which played
to packed houses.

MUSIC

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8
(254 3678)

The Meeting Place folk club
has Irish folk music every
Fri, Sat & Sun evenings.
Resident band Cara. Plus
surprise guests.

8.30 - 11.00 pm. Free

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes,
N16 (226 5930)

Music every night of the
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jazz/rock bands.
Big Chief plays every Sat.
night, Alternative Cabaret
every other Sunday night.
Check with the Pegasus for
music on other nights.
Admission (unless other-
wise stated): £1.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington
Road (254 2415)

January Programme

Sun 4: 'Any Which Way You Can'

Sun 11: 'Smokey and the Bandits
Ride Again'

Sun 18: 'The Blue Lagoon'

Sun 25: 'The Exterminators'

Tickets: £1.70 (£1.40 for
children). Phone box office
for times of programmes.



RIO CINEMA 107 Kingsland High
St, E8. (254 6677)

For details of this month's
programme, see the Rio ad.

MEETINGS

ERITREAN RELIEF ASSOCIATION

* Wed 21 Jan: Film showing
of 'Sawana', which tells
the story of the Eritrean
war up to 1977, with a
discussion. At Living-
stone House, North East
London Poly, Stratford.

HACKNEY FIGHTBACK

Meets on the first monday of
every month. The meetings are
open to affiliated groups, to
discuss strategy for fighting
cuts in local services.
8.00 pm at the Labour & Trades
Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Meets on the second Tuesday
of every month to discuss
issues affecting local health
services. Everyone welcome.
7.30 pm at the Shoreditch
Health Centre, 210 Kingsland
Road, E2.

sun power

83 blackstock rd
tel: 01-226 1799

books on

Nuclear Power
Alternative Energy
Ecology, Nature
Organic Gardening
Self-Sufficiency
Crafts, D.I.Y.
Whole food, Health
Feminism
Anarchism
Fiction
Children's books

open: Mo-Sa 10-6, Thu 12-7

tube: finbury pk.

HACKNEY ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP

*Saturday 24 January: Film
and public meeting on: -
'South Africa and Namibia'.

Film, "We are All Workers",
made by the South African
Congress of Trade Unions
and shot illegally in South
Africa.

Talk by Ernie Roberts MP plus
speakers from SACTU and SWAPO.

2.30-5.30 pm at the Trades &
Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane,
E8. Followed in the evening
with a Benefit Afro Disco.
8 pm, same place. Admission
to disco £1 (Afternoon event
free). Bar food.

OTHER EVENTS

CITY & HACKNEY ASSOCIATION
FOR MENTAL HEALTH

This is a newly formed group
of people concerned with men-
tal health in City & Hackney.
Recovery from mental illness
can never be completed in
hospital alone. You can help
people when they come home
from hospital by joining our
mental health support group.

For details phone CPRU on
985 5555 ex.225.

HOXTON HALL WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

*Sat 10, Sun 11 January: A
two-day course in Theatre
and Playmaking to find
through improvisations how
to give your ideas some
theatrical form. Fee: £3.
To be held at Hoxton Hall,
128a Hoxton St, N1. Phone
739 5431 for details.
Times: 11-1, 2-5, 6.30-9.
Evening meals provided at
reasonable prices.

Hoxton Hall also organises
courses during the day on
other skills, such as art,
pottery, old-time dancing,
among others. For details
of these classes, phone
the above number, or call
in at Hoxton Hall.

HACKNEY, TOWER HAMLETS AND
TOTTENHAM WRITERS' WORKSHOPS

*Friday 9 January: Festival
of local writing. An evening
of poems and stories, at the
Crown & Castle, Dalston Junc-
tion. Bar 8-11 pm.

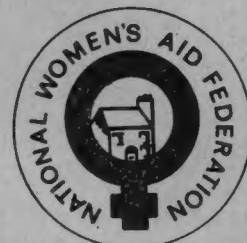
HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS GROUP
and HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL

- give legal advice on employ-
ment problems. Advice will be
available from solicitors and
trade union officials, who
will inform workers of their
rights on dismissals, redun-
dancies, maternity pay and
racial and sexual discrimina-
tion.
Every Thursday evening, 6.30-
7.30 pm at Centerprise, 136
Kingsland High St, E8.



If you want a free listing
in our What's On section,
send details of your event
to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8.
Listings for the February
issue should be sent by
20th January.

Women's Aid



Advice Line

Hackney Women's Aid runs a
telephone advice line for
women, providing help for
those who need to find a
refuge, or seek advice on
housing, custody, injunctions
and other issues.

The advice service is open
on THURSDAYS, from 1-5 pm.



Phone: 249 8334

ADVERTISEMENT

CHATS XMAS SHOW

It's Christmas Panto and Party time again at Chats Palace.
If you thrilled to the 'Thief of Ragbag' or shivered at the
infamies of the 'Icequeen', you won't want to miss Chat's
1980 extravaganza -

ROBBIN THE RICH

- a feast of mediaeval merriment set in
the heart of Chatswood Forest where hooded heroes, daring
damsels and a multitude of merrypersons gather to outwit
the grimacing sheriff Guy of Gisborne and his horrible
henchmen.

There's plot and counterplot, comedy and music, feasting
and games in store for young and old - and a banquet of
good food and real ales in the Palace hostelry.

Dec. 16 - Jan. 10 Tue-Sat at 8pm

PARTY BOOKINGS: Adults £1.50; Children & OAP's 50p.
OTHER BOOKINGS: Adults £2.00; Children & OAP's 75p.

Ring CHATS PALACE

986-6714



42-44 Brooksby's Walk
London E.9

New reports on Peach

The death of Hackney teacher Blair Peach in an Anti Nazi League demonstration at Southall in April 1979 becomes news again this month with the publication of two more books about the events that day. The first is the supplementary report of the unofficial committee of enquiry set up by the National Council for Civil Liberties, called simply "The Death of Blair Peach". The second is published by the Friends of Blair Peach Committee, and is called "Licence to Kill".

SOBERING

Both, in their different ways, make sobering and horrifying reading. The fact that a man can be struck down and killed by a policeman in front of a dozen or so witnesses is

bad enough. The fact that the assailant cannot be identified can only lead one to the supposition that the police did not try hard enough to find the killer.

Both books rely largely on the evidence presented to the inquest held in front of the West London Coroner Dr John Burton. The entire coroner's procedure is heavily criticised throughout as being a totally inadequate substitute for a public enquiry. In the words of the NCCL report: "The evident bias of the coroner... combined with his confused and inaccurate direction to the jury, made a fair hearing impossible."

Even if Blair Peach had not died at Southall, it would still have been a terrible day for race relations in Britain. These books serve to remind us of this.

QUIZ FOR HACKS



By way of a change this month, and because the festive season is still on us (or at least on me as I trudge towards my typewriter) I have set you the first ever Hackney political quiz. You can while away a few happy minutes in a spirit of New Year blues... There are absolutely NO PRIZES to be won!

1. (a). What was the title of the Labour manifesto for the 1978 Council elections?
(b). How many copies were printed?
(c). How many people live in the borough of Hackney?

2. Who said during 1980:
(a). If you knew what we're considering you'd die of fright.
(b). It is perfectly all right for a councillor only to attend one council meeting every six months.

3. Which female councillor, at her own request, asked to be called "Mr Mayor" during her term of office.

4. (a). Who was selected to be the tenants' representative on the Council Housing Management Committee?
(b). Who is his wife?
(c). Who are his parents-in-law?

5. How many people turned up at a selection meeting for the Labour candidate for the Wick Ward by-election?

6. (a). Which GLC constituency has E.H. Hillman failed to get re-elected for this year?
(b). Where is he still on the shortlist?
(c). Why did he fail to get re-elected in Hackney Central?

7. (a). Whose stickers offering housing advice caused a council leader to talk to a community project worker?
(b). Which ward does this councillor represent?
(c). In which ward did the community project worker get elected to the Council in a by-election?

8. Who failed to cement the Broad Democratic Alliance in a by-election in Rectory Ward?

9. Which ex-high jumper represented Hackney (unofficially) in the Moscow Olympics?

10. Which two Labour Councillors backed Tory Joe in his efforts to stop Hackney sending a donation to the British Olympic fund?

11. (a). Who said goodbye to Hackney and hello to Paddington?
(b). How many tears were shed in Hackney?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. (a). Ken Livingstone, GLC member for Hackney North.
(b). Not a lot.
(c). Council for Robert Owen and Councillor Matilda Owen.
2. (a). Barry Hibberd.
(b). Betty Blomfield.
(c). Susan Gorman resign her Council seat.
3. (a). John Kotz, at a Hackney budget.
(b). Martin Ottolenghi, discussing potential cuts in the social services.
(c). David Green, the Communist candidate.
4. (a). Chatham Ward.
(b). Chatham Ward.
(c). Chatham Ward.
5. (a). John Kotz, the community project worker Charles Clarke group. The councillor was John Kotz.
(b). Hackney Housing Action Group. The councillor was John Kotz.
(c). Because several of his supporters turned up late.
6. (a). Labour Cares: about 190,000.
(b). 500.
(c). About 190,000.
7. (a). Martin Ottolenghi.
(b). Where is he still on the shortlist?
(c). Why did he fail to get re-elected in Hackney Central?
8. (a). Labour Cares: about 190,000.
(b). 500.
(c). About 190,000.
9. (a). John Kotz, at a Hackney budget.
(b). Martin Ottolenghi, discussing potential cuts in the social services.
(c). David Green, the Communist candidate.
10. (a). Chatham Ward.
(b). Chatham Ward.
(c). Chatham Ward.
11. (a). John Kotz, the community project worker Charles Clarke group. The councillor was John Kotz.
(b). Hackney Housing Action Group. The councillor was John Kotz.
(c). Because several of his supporters turned up late.

Refuge Action

Hackney Women's Aid picketed the last Hackney Council Meeting to demand that something should be done about completing the refuge for battered women.

Five women then went into the meeting to hear Anthony Kendall ask why there has been such a long delay on getting the refuge finished.

As might be expected, the response was an apology and a promise. Jim Holland, chairman of the Housing Development Committee, admitted the delay and apologised for it. He

said that the fault lay partly with the government's moratorium on housing repairs and building - a very faint excuse because, as the women of Hackney know only too well, the new refuge was promised over a year ago.

Jim Holland promised that the council would do all it could to get the refuge finished.

Meanwhile women in Hackney are having to go to other boroughs for help, putting a lot of extra pressure on these refuges. And women get beaten up - even at Christmas.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hackney TENANT

The monthly newspaper of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations
From newsagents everywhere 10p

You can't 'live' in Hackney without it!

Petty Bureau



HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS holds regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm in our office at 85 Dalston Lane, E8. If you would like to find out more about us - or volunteer to help write, produce or sell the next issue - then please come along. Meetings in January are on 5th, 12th and 19th. If you can't come, then ring 249 8191 (messages in daytime) or 249 0311 (evenings and weekends).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Subscribe!

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.40 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, 85 Dalston Lane, London E8. Telephone 249 8191 (daytime messages), 249 0311 (evenings and weekends).